

REMARKS

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 17, 18, 20-22, 24, 25 and 31-33 is acknowledged with appreciation.

The rejection of claims 17, 18, 20-22, 24, 25 and 31-33 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are believed overcome by the foregoing amendments. Claim 17, step (c), the confusing recitation of Formula Ib has been deleted in order to clarify the claim. Claim 21 has been amended to depend from claim 17, which provides proper antecedent support for the phrase "base reagent". With regard to the use of the term "comprises" in claim 21, reconsideration is requested. The claim is intended to cover the possibility that the base reagent may be a mixture of pyridine and some other basic ingredient. So long as pyridine is present, the requirements of the claim are satisfied, and a person of ordinary skill in the art can readily determine whether or not any given composition falls within or without the scope of the claim. Accordingly, the amended claim is respectfully submitted to fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In claim 27, the typographical error in the definition of R⁸⁰¹ has been corrected. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for pointing out this inadvertence. Finally, claim 31 has been corrected to properly depend from claim 27.

Claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the proviso suggested by the Examiner. The indication that such an amendment would render claims 27-29 allowable is acknowledged with appreciation. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 27 and 28 over prior art are believed rendered moot by the amendment.

It is noted that there is no rejection of claim 29 in the Office Action. In any event, claim 29 is clearly allowable with amended parent claim 27.

Favorable action on the application is earnestly solicited.

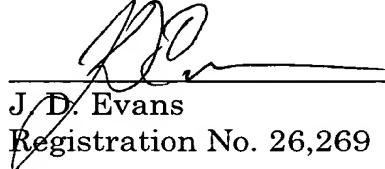
If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 029300.49227US).

Respectfully submitted,

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